

Birder
by Emmy Kay

Logline: A disenfranchised birdwatcher heads into the woods to find solitude from society, but events soon conspire against her. Will she go to extreme lengths to preserve her tranquillity?

Synopsis

Carrie, an introverted mixed-race birdwatcher, is heading toward a tranquil spot in the woods. All she wants is to escape the world where she feels invisible and overlooked and spend time with her beloved birds. Beautiful birdsong fills the air.

Carrie's peace does not last long - she's approached by Todd, who tries to engage Carrie in conversation. As the situation is about to escalate, Todd becomes distracted by the sight of an "attractive" female jogger. He helps himself to Carrie's water and leaves. Carrie returns to birdwatching.

Portia, the female jogger, circles back towards Carrie, fearful she's being followed and giving a description fitting Todd. Carrie, desperate for some peace, shrugs it off.

Portia insists on joining Carrie, saying "safety in numbers". The prowler never materialises. We get to know Portia through casual conversation - confident, disinterested in Carrie and her love of birds. Carrie's familiar feelings of insignificance return. When Portia casually disturbs the exact bird Carrie has been waiting for all day, Carrie, already stressed, feeling invisible and in desperate need of solitude, offers Portia some water. Portia drinks and begins to have a physical reaction. She's poisoned. We hear her crash to the ground.

Carrie writes something in her bird notebook and leaves to find her next beauty spot. As she leaves we see her step over Todd's lifeless legs.

Beautiful birdsong fills the air.